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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/970,934	10/05/2001	Stephen G. Emerson	214834US55ACONT	3585

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EXAMINER
WOITACH, JOSEPH T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
1632	

DATE MAILED: 09/26/2003

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

File

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/970,934	EMERSON ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Joseph T. Voitach	1632	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 July 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

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DETAILED ACTION

This application is a continuation of 08/787,044, filed January 28, 1997, which is a continuation of 08/352,196, filed December 1, 1994, now US Patent 5,605,822, which is a continuation of 08/100,337, filed July 30 1993, now abandoned, which is a continuation of 07/628,343, filed December 17, 1990, now abandoned, which a continuation in part of 07/366,639, filed June 15, 1989, now abandoned, which is the 371 national stage filing of PCT/US90/03438.

Claims 1-26 are pending.

Election/Restriction

Applicant's election with traverse of Group I, claims 1-14 and 26, in Paper No. 6 is acknowledged and contend that the restriction requirement is improper. The traversal is on the ground(s) that a burden exists in searching the entire application. See Applicants' election bridging pages 2-3. This is not found persuasive because in the restriction requirement Examiner had set forth specific reasons on how the inventions are directed to different inventions. For example Examiner set forth for Group II that the method of culturing the cells does not require a bioreactor and can be practiced in other types of vessels, and the bioreactor containing stromal cells can be used to culture other cell types which require a stromal cell layer, such as mouse embryonic stem cells. For Group III Examiner set forth that the invention is unrelated because

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hematopoietic stem cells are different from genetically modified fibroblasts of group III, and the method of group I does not result in modified fibroblasts. Further, the inventions have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification and have acquired a separate status in the art because of their recognized divergent subject matter each demonstrating that a different and separate search is required. Applicants have not contested the specific basis for restriction requirement as set forth in the restriction requirement, nor provided any specific reason why multiple searches required to examine multiple inventions would not constitute an undue burden on the Office. Therefore, for the reasons above and of record, the restriction requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

Claims 1-26 are pending. Claims 15-25 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a nonelected inventions, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Applicant timely traversed the restriction (election) requirement in Paper No. 6. Claims 1-14 and 26 are currently under examination as they are drawn to a method of growing human hematopoietic cells in culture comprising combining stromal cells and hematopoietic cells suspected of comprising neoplastic cells, and harvesting said hematopoietic cells.

Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any

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amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

Information Disclosure Statement

The information disclosure statement filed July 7, 2003, paper number 5, fails to comply with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(1), which requires a list of all patents, publications, or other information submitted for consideration by the Office. It has been placed in the application file, but the information referred to therein has not been considered.

A signed copy of the information disclosure statement filed January 18, 2002, paper number 2, is provided with the instant action.

Double Patenting

The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and, *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

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A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

Claims 1-14 and 26 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of double patenting over claims 1-64 of U. S. Patent No. 5,605,822 (in IDS). An obviousness-type double patenting rejection is appropriate where the conflicting claims are not identical, but an examined application claim not is patentably distinct from the reference claim(s) because the examined claim is either anticipated by, or would have been obvious over, the reference claim(s). See, *e.g.*, *In re Berg*, 140 F.3d 1428, 46 USPQ2d 1226 (Fed. Cir. 1998); *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985). Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because the patent and the application contain claims directed to methods of growing human hematopoietic stem cells in culture, use of transformed fibroblast cells, stromal cells adherent to a protein substrate wherein the protein substrate is a protein coated membrane of a protein sponge. In particular, claim 16 sets forth the instantly claimed method for bone marrow cells and

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dependent claims set forth the same specific conditions for the shear stress required to obtain the desired results.

Conclusion


No claim is allowed.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joseph Woitach whose telephone number is (703)305-3732.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Deborah Reynolds, can be reached at (703)305-4051.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group analyst Dianiece Jacobs whose telephone number is (703) 308-2141.

Joseph T. Woitach


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